



## Welcome to the January Edition of the Mitchell Newsletter

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*(Today Show – discussing 50th Anniversary of Decimal Currency)*

Australia Day 2016 was a great day and as usual the Hills community celebrated in style with capacity crowds at each event.

Kate Carnell was recently appointed as Australia's first [Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman](#) and the final [Small Business Bill](#) was also introduced into Parliament. This Bill will enable Australian small businesses to change their legal structure without attracting a capital gains tax (CGT) liability.

Email me at [Alex.Hawke.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Alex.Hawke.MP@aph.gov.au) with your feedback. Also to stay in touch *like* my [facebook](#) page, [twitter](#) or check out my [website](#).

Recent media interviews:

- [Sky PM Agenda](#)
- [ABC 7:30](#)
- [2GB](#)

PS: Legislation recently debated in Parliament:

- [Tax and Superannuation Laws Amendment \(2015 Measures No 6\) Bill 2015](#)
- [Appropriation Bill \(No 3\) 2015-2016](#)
- [Tax Laws Amendment \(Small Business Restructure Roll-over\) Bill 2016](#)

## Recognising our high achievers locally: Honours & Awards



*(Hills Shire Council's Australia Day Awards recipients. Photo – courtesy of the Hills Shire Council)*

Congratulations to all the winners of the 2016 Hills Shire Council's [Australia Day Awards](#)

Citizen of the Year – [Donna Fraser](#)

Senior Citizen of the Year – [Major General Warren Glenny OAM RF ED](#) and [Grahame Utley](#)

Young Citizen of the Year – **Lauren Wood**

Community Project of the Year – Excellence in Social Enterprise Award - [Hills Daily Grind](#) Community Project of the Year – Excellence in Community Award - **Mental Health Month Country High Tea**

Mayoral Commendation award for Citizen of the Year Award – **Mike Yeo**

Mayoral Commendation award for Citizen of the Year - Sporting Achievement – **Brad Mitchell**

Mayoral Commendation award for Young Citizen of the Year – Sporting Achievement - **Janath Kasthuriarachchi**.

Congratulations also to the Mitchell residents who were recognised in the 2016 Australia Day Honours List for their significant contribution to our nation:

[Professor Jeffrey Flack AM](#) – *for significant service to medicine in the field of endocrinology as a clinician, and to diabetes research, management and education.*

[Laurence Cunningham OAM](#) – *for service to Australia-Thailand relations as Honorary Consul for Australia in Southern Thailand.*

## Turnbull Government bans excessive credit card surcharges



The Turnbull Government's legislation ([Competition and Consumer Amendment \(Payment Surcharges\) Bill 2015](#)) to ban excessive card surcharges was debated in the Parliament last week. The Turnbull Government is committed to improving Australia's payments system to achieve a more efficient system and fairer outcomes for consumers and business. I had the opportunity to address on behalf of the Government during the Amendment's [Consideration in Detail](#) part of the debate. Click [here](#) to view the Consideration in Detail of the Bill.

## **Stronger Communities Program – Round 2 – Apply NOW**

The Mitchell Stronger Communities Programme – Round 2 opens on 15 February 2016. Local community and sporting groups are invited to apply for funding for new projects.

The [Stronger Communities Programme](#) is to fund small capital projects which will deliver social benefits. The program aims to improve local community participation, cohesion and contribute to vibrant and viable communities.

Key aspects of the program:

- Please submit details of your [proposed project](#) to my office by 5pm, **Friday, 1 April 2016**.
- Local government and incorporated not-for-profit organisations are eligible to apply.
- Grants of between \$5,000 and up to a maximum of \$20,000 are available. There is a total funding pool of \$150,000 for 2015/16 year for the Mitchell electorate.
- **Applicants are required to confirm matched funding in cash or in-kind on at least a dollar-for-dollar basis.**
- Following consultation, the Mitchell Stronger Communities Committee will provide identified applicants with access to an online application form. Applicants will only be able to apply for funding once a link to the online form has been provided by my office.

Expressions of interest for the grant can be made by downloading the form and sending to my electorate office at Alex Hawke MP, PO Box 1173, Castle Hill NSW 1765 or via [email](#) or click here to lodge online.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the Stronger Communities Programme [guidelines](#) and the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Please contact my office if you need any further information on the Stronger Communities Programme on 9899 7211 or [alex.hawke.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:alex.hawke.mp@aph.gov.au).

## Inaugural Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman Appointed



The Minister for Small Business, Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP recently announced Kate Carnell as the first [Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman](#). [Kate Carnell](#) will commence the new role on 11 March for a five year period.

Kate will be a strong voice and advocate for small business across the country, as well as help small business find out how they can resolve disputes without resorting to costly litigation.

## Safer Streets Round 2 application **deadline extended** – 2 March 2016



The deadline for Round 2 of the [Safer Streets Programme](#) has been extended by two weeks – Applications now close 2pm (AEST), **Wednesday 2 March**

2016.

The closing date has been extended to ensure all local government organisations and eligible incorporated not-for-profit organisations have the opportunity to support their local community by implementing new safety and crime prevention initiatives.

I encourage all potential applicants to submit their project [applications](#) as soon as possible to ensure Mitchell has the best chance of receiving funding from this vital community safety initiative. Further information on the Safer Streets Programme is available [here](#).

## **Clean Up Australia Day – Lets Go – [Join me on 6 March](#)**



The theme for [Clean up Australia Day 2016](#) is *Come On Australia – Lets Go*, encouraging communities across Australia to join together to clean up, fix up and preserve their local environment.

This year I will be joining the Winston Hills Scout Group. If you have some time to assist please feel free to come along and pitch in. It would be great to meet you and have you on board for this important initiative.

Date: **Sunday, 6 March, 2016**

Where: Oakes Reserve, Oakes Road, Winston Hills Time: **10am-12pm**

Registration: To register to [join](#)

Meeting Point: Winston Hills Scout Hall, Edison Parade, Winston Hills

## National Police Service Medal Presentation



One of the final events for 2015, I had the honour of attending the National Police Service presentation at Castle Hill. It was a privilege to present National Police Service Medals to those who have given approximately 700 years' worth of service to our Police Force.

During their service Police see the best and worst of times in people's lives and are selfless in their service. A big thank you for your service and commitment to our community and also thank you to the Hills Local Area Command for hosting this special event.

## Housing Affordability – call for submissions – close 11 March 2016



The [Commonwealth Government](#) is calling for [public submissions](#) on ways to boost the supply of affordable rental housing through innovative financing models.

The Government is committed to finding innovative solutions to affordable housing issues, and to collaborating with the states to ensure we identify the most viable proposals for future implementations

Public submissions are open until **11 March 2016**. A small number of roundtables with industry and academic experts will be held during the submission process. Click [here](#) for the [Terms of Reference](#) and further information about how to make a submission.

Representing the communities of Baulkham Hills, Beaumont Hills, Bella Vista, Box Hill, Castle Hill, Kellyville, Maraylya, Nelson, Northmead, North Rocks, Rouse Hill, West Pennant Hills and Winston Hills

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Authorised by Alex Hawke MP,  
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